

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2594

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2181

AIDAC

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: IBRD/ USAID FOLLOW-70 ON MARCH 12-13 OR MEETING

REF: KINSHASA 2166

1. AT USAID REQUEST IBRD TRANSPORTATION TEAM MET WITH US ON MARCH 14 TO DISCUSS OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT OFFICE DES ROUTES OPERATIONS. DISCUSSIONS WERE FRANKEST HELD TO DATE ON ISSUE OF REALISTIC DONOR STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO IMPROVING OR PERFORMANCE.

2. IBRD TEAM REITERATED (SEE REFTEL) ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH OR PRESENTATION VIS- A- VIS STAEMENT AND JUSTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TARGETS FOR MEDIUM- SHORT TERM. THEY INDICATED THAT A LIST OF SPECIFIC PLANNING DEFICIENCIES HAD BEEN LEFT WITH OR OFFICIALS WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT BE PREPARED FOR IBRD REVIEW OVER NEXT TWO MONTHS. BANK TEAM ADDED THAT THEY HAD LITTLE CONFIDENCE NEW SUBMISSION COULD BE UP TO STANDARD THEY DESIRED.

3. USAID SUGGESTED UNEQUIVOCABLY THAT IBRD/ DONERS SHOULD NOW TAKE WHATEVER STEPS MAY BE NECESSARY TO INSURE QUALITY AND COMPLETION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OVER NEXT TWO MONTHS.
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WE REFERRED TO THE IBRD AUGUST 1972 LETTER TO GOZ INSISTING THAT PLAN BE PREPARED ASAP AND FACT THAT IN MID- MARCH 1973 IBRD STILL REQUESTING BASICALLY SAME DATA.

4. THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME AMBIVALENCY AMONG IBRD TEAM MEMBERS. ON THE ONE HAND THERE WAS THE FEELING SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO CORRECT SITUATION ON THE OTHER THAT PROBLEM WAS BASICALLY FOR GOZ TO RESOLVE AND THEREFORE WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR GOVERNMENT TO GET ON WITH IT. USAID POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE FEW IF ANY ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HOLDING RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN OFFICE DES ROUTES AND THAT COMMISSIONER ENGULU UNDOUBTEDLY EXPECTED THAT OR EXPRTS FINANCED BY IBRD AND AID HAD COMPETENCY TO DEVISE REQUIRED PLANS. OUR IMPLICATIONS WAS THAT IBRD/ DONOR GROUP AT SOME POINT IN TIME HAD TO ASSUME PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LACK OF TIMELY ACTIONS ON PART OF OR. IF TDY SERVICES OR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WERE REQUIRED, THEY SHOULD BE SOUGHT HOW.

5. TEAM LEADER REED OPINED THAT OR HAS AT PRESENT SUFFICIENT EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL TO ACCOMPLISH TASKS SET- OUT FOR THEM DURING CURRENT DISCUSSIONS. HE DID AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT COMMISSIONER ENGULU WAS PROBABLY NOT FULLY INFORMED ON URGENCY OF PROBLEM. ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS AGREED THAT RESIDENT IBRD REPRESENTATIVE AND USAID DIRECTOR WOULD CALL ON COMMISSIONER WITH SPECIFIC LIST OF REQUIREMENTS AND DESIRED TIME- FRAME FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL. CALL WAS MADE ON ENGULU MARCH 16 AND COMMISSIONER GAVE IMPRESSION HE WOULD PERSONALLY DIRECT FOLLOW- UP.

6. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT A FY73 AID LOAN COULD STILL BE WORKED- UP, BUT SUBSTANTIVE DEFICIENCIES LISTED IN IBRD MARCH 16 LETTER TO ENGULU (WHICH WE ARE POUCHING) WITH POSSIBILITY OF SLIPPAGE ON NEW TIME TABLE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. ACCORDINGLY, USAID RECOMMENDS THAT ALTERNATIVE OUTLINED IN KINSHASA 1831 BE FOLLOWED, I. E., NEW AID LOAN BE AUTHORIZED DURING FIRST- QUARTER FY 1974. OFFICE DES ROUTES OFFICIALS PRESENTLY THINKING IN TERMS OF \$8 MILLION.
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